RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

May 1991

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

MEETING MINUTES

The April meeting of the RNA had two guest speakers: Police Captain James Shamburg of the North District and Ward D Councilman Dan Waddleton.

Captain Shamburg is a Heights resident and is fully aware of the many problems facing us. He explained some of the ideas he hopes to put into place that will help bring the police force and the citizens closer together in fighting crime and stablizing the community. He admitted that these efforts are hampered by the fact that he has only 93 police officers scheduled over three shifts to cover the entire North District. One of the Captain's goals is to have the same officers in each tour of duty cover the same area, so that they would become familiar with the local residents and establish a presence in the neighborhoods. This would enable them to spot wrong doings and perhaps prevent a great deal of crime.

Captain Shamburg was very interesting. He seemed to have a realistic grasp of his goals and his capabilities as well as the limitations of some of his projected programs.

Our next speaker was Councilman Dan Waddleton who came to enlist support for his anti-drug march on April 28th. He spoke about his efforts to reach troubled teens and adolescents through his jo in the Jersey City school system. He also spoke about showing young people that success can be achieved if they apply themselves through education and striving for realistic goals.

The next topic of discussion was our annual Flea Market in Riverview Park. Margaret McCorry volunteered to be this year's coordinator. We then adjourned for refreshments provided by our members.

Please join us at our next meeting on May 10th, when our guest speakers will be Councilman Joe Rakowski of Ward C and Harry Schwartz of Christ Hospital. See you on Friday, May 10th, at 7:30 pm at the Harbor View Health Care Center.

Marie Tuzzo, Secretary

RNA NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR OUR FLEA MARKET ON JUNE 15TH

This year's Flea Market committee is being coordinated by Margaret McCorry. She will be ably assisted by Gina Giambittista and Ernest Quintero. Other committee members include Gert Bogden, Dee Ipsaro, Jack Rea and Maria Tuzzo.

As usual, your donations are needed to make our annual flea market a big success. We need:

1) HOUSEHOLD ITEMS to sell at the RNA table. Donated items (in good condition only) should be brought to Riverview Park on the morning of the flea market, Saturday, June 15th between 8 - 10 am;

2) BAKED GOODS (homemade or store bought): again should be dropped off the morning of the flea market;

3) YOUR TIME AND TALENTS: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP RUN AND PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET TO MAKE IT WORK! Call Margaret at 963-0740. For more information, see page two.

ANTI-DRUG MARCH BEGINS JOB OF CLEANING UP RNA NEIGHBORHOOD

On Sunday, April 28th, Councilman Dan Waddleton led a group of thirty determined men and women on a tour of Palisade Avenue to begin the process of cleaning up our neighborhood from the problems of drug dealing, street gangs and vandalism. Starting at the corner of Palisade and Franklin Street which is the focal point of these anti-social activities, the group talked to store owners, residents, and children. The message was loud and clear - "take pride in your community and don't let the criminal elements intimidate you". There was a strong police presence on the march with motorcycle and patrolcar officers. Police Director Gerard

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING:

FRIDAY, May 10, at 7:30 PM

AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

- QUEST SPEAKERS: Harry Schwartz, discussing future development plans for Christ Hospital

-COUNCILMAN Joe Rakowski, Ward C

THE RNA SEVENTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

There's no time to wait this year! We may have gotten a late start, but the Flea Market is going to be as big as ever! Our Seventh Annual RNA Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th at Riverview-Fiske Park from 9 am to 4 pm. Our raindate is the following Saturday, June 22nd. So make plans to be there with your neighbors.

Anyone who has been to our past flea markets can tell you its a time to browse and shop, and perhaps sell some of the unwanted items you have around your home. But most of all, the flea market is a chance for all of us as neighbors to be together and enjoy our neighborhood park.

As always, RNA will have a table at the flea market. You can help by donating anything you have around the house that you no longer need or want. (No spouses or significant others accepted!) Lamps, picture frames, dishes, knick-knacks, anything! Just take a look around and see if you've got anything to spare. We only ask the items be in good condition. You can bring the items to the park the morning of the flea market. The money we raise goes into the RNA treasury to fund projects and newsletter costs.

If you'd like a table of your own, RNA members can rent a table for $8, but be aware we have a limited number of tables to provide. After that, it is "Space Only" for RNA members. Non-members can rent "Space Only" for $12. (See attached application.)

Other perennial favorites will be at this year's flea market- hot dogs, baked goods, meatball sandwiches, coffee tea, and soda! You can have your children fingerprinted for free, or let them enjoy the Magic of Tony Scarpa, and you can take a chance on a 50/50 raffle.

We'll have something for everyone, so come join us in Riverview-Fiske Park June 15th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It takes a lot of work to organize and run the FLEA MARKET. You can help:

--CLEAN-UP THE PARK
--PICK-UP, SET-UP, BREAK-DOWN, AND RETURN THE TABLES
--WORK AT THE RNA TABLE
--SELL HOT DOGS, BEVERAGES, AND BAKED GOODS
--PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET

CALL MARGARET McCORRY AT 963-0740.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SEVENTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH
TIME: 9 AM TO 4PM
LOCATION: RIVERVIEW PARK
RAINDATE JUNE 22ND

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

PRICES:
1) RNA MEMBERS - $8.00 : TABLE RENTAL
(The supply of tables is limited and will be rented on a first come basis; after that there will be only spaces available at the same price.)

2) NON-MEMBERS - $12.00: SPACE ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 963-0740.

ALL MONEY IS DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 12, 1990

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Send Checks to Margaret McCorry, 247 Ogden Avenue #4, Jersey City, NJ 07307
Attn: Flea Market

ANTI-DRUG MARCH (continued from page one)

McCarthy participated in the march to show his department's active support of this effort. Councilman Joe Rakowski, whose C Ward includes Palisade Avenue, also walked in the march.

It should be realized that this march is but the beginning of a long and painful effort to rid our neighborhood of these problems. There must be a coordinated effort on the part of both the local citizens and the City fathers.

It is the duty of the local residents to be on the alert for any wrongdoing and notify the police immediately. Businesses can also help by not allowing kids from hanging out in front of there buildings till all hours of the night. Keeping their building and sidewalk clean and free from graffiti is also necessary. We as a community must set an example of how we want our community to be. If we accept this criminal behavior, we only reenforce it in the people who are committing it. That is not to say that we expect people to place themselves in danger by confronting these hoodlums. All we ask is for you to protect your home and neighborhood and not allow these criminals to take over over the street.

RNA was disappointed in the response of the local residents, businesses and other Heights block and neighborhood associations to this march. WHERE WAS EVERYBODY? Everyone complains about the problem and demands a solution - BUT where was everyone on Sunday to channel their anger and frustration into some positive action. REMEMBER IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL WHO LIVE IN THE HEIGHTS THAT SOMETHING WILL BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE AND SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

Of course, the bigger responsibility belongs to the City. It is their job to protect its citizens from these criminal activities. If it means more police patrols - on foot, motorcycle or undercover - to rid the area of this menace, then that is what must be done. There should be periodic building inspections to see if there are any violations, in terms of over-crowded or illegal apartments, adequate garbage storage and disposal, fire alarms systems, and the presence of a superintendent. Tickets should be issued to any property owner or business that does not clean their sidewalk or leaves garbage on the street between pick-ups. RNA has been asking, for over a year, for the installation of more overhead street lighting on Palisade Avenue from Cuneo Place to Bowers Street to make it safer to walk on the Avenue.

ULTIMATELY IT IS THE CITY WHO MUST MAKE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE FOR ITS CITIZENS TO LIVE AND WORK IN. LET'S HOPE THIS MARCH WAS JUST THE OPENING SCENE IN A CAMPAIGN THAT IS DEDICATED TO GIVING PALISADE AVENUE BACK TO THE HEIGHTS.

EPA TO CLEAN TOXIC SITE IN HEIGHTS

Less than one week after that incredible fire at an illegal dump site on Aetna Street in Downtown Jersey City, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a cleanup schedule for the toxic dump site on Ravine Road, or New York Avenue. Within the next month, they will begin removing the leaking chemical drums on the land. This 1.3 acre site contains between 500 to 600 leaking drums of potentially toxic material scattered among the trees and rocks of the Palisade cliff.

The site was originally owned by Ideal Cooperage, a drum reconditioning company. When they went out of business, they just left the drums behind but now the drums are rusting and the chemicals are leaking out into the soil. The land is presently owned by Sal-Son Trucking Company.

RNA with the help of the Incinerator Authority has been actively seeking to have this site cleaned and the drums removed for over two years. The problem, which the Aetna fire demonstrated, is that a fire on the site would spread toxic fumes throughout the heavily populated community on the cliff, including Christ Hospital and Harbor View Health Care Center.

The Incinerator Authority, especially through the efforts of Inspector Tom Harrison, has been fighting the bureaucratic red tape of the DEP and EPA to have this site properly taken care of. Let's hope that this new commitment on the part of DEP will solve this environmental problem - once and for all.

RNA'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP

Once again, RNA is organizing its neighborhood cleanup effort for the weekend of June 7th to the 9th. There will be four JCIA-supplied dumpsters placed on our streets for local residents to dispose of their broken, useless, or unwanted junk.

Everybody should make an effort to clean out their basements, garages, yards, and closets and throw out all that junk that they've been saving for no apparent reason. It's part of our neighborhood project to clean up our community by cleaning our homes and apartments and making our blocks a clean and attractive place to live and visit.

THE DATES: FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

LOCATIONS OF DUMPSTERS:

A) CUNEO PLACE

B) FERRY STREET

C) FRANKLIN STREET

D) GRIFFITH STREET
(ALL DUMPSTERS WILL BE LOCATED ON THESE STREETS BETWEEN PALISADE AND OGDEN AVENUES.)

THANKS TO JCIA AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES!

RNA HONORED BY JCIA

For a second year in a row, RNA has been recognized by the Clean Communities Committee and the Incinerator Authority for our outstanding efforts to cleanup and beautify our own neighborhood.

CONRAD'S CORNER

At last, the City Council is going to fight for blue-collar jobs according to the Jersey Journal of April 28th. The City Council has set up an Ad-Hoc committee to figure out how to retain the businesses we still have. The City had hoped financial services along the waterfront would get us out of this depression, but now that they have also collapsed we'll have to rely on getting more blue collar jobs or at least hang on to the ones we've got left.

In order to make Jersey City more competitive with the suburbs our taxes will have to be reduced at least twenty per cent. This can easily be done if we get rid of staffs of employees still sitting in offices in the hopes of enticing developers to locate in Jersey City.

If we had twenty percent less taxes we could have office workers living in the Heights as they once did when everyone worked in New York. We wouldn't have the traffic jams of out of town workers from the suburbs driving into the City to the waterfront, our Gold Coast, which only pays thirty percent in taxes, while our homeowners pay a hefty one hundred percent. All this talk about mass transit along the waterfront is just for out of towners. The hundred percent taxpayers and their tenants of Hudson County will have to be content riding buses if and when they can or else run out and buy a car to get around in the City.

As long as sixty percent of our City Council are school teachers and not business people who would try to reduce the city budget, we have a group of legislators increasing our bonded indebtedness to a point which will soon bankrupt the City.

We thought the State with Scambio taking over the school system would cut the cost of education in half, but even she is increasing its cost with less students with many still not even able to read or write.

Our Mayor prides himself for being an accountant and is having quite a tiff with the police and firemen, but what about the rest of the vast army at City Hall and our other public buildings? Do we really need them all? The City school system and City Hall are the largest employers in the City, no wonder our taxes are so high with everyone jumping on the band wagon for some kind of job; many of them are even out of towners. Our country, especially the east is in a serious depression but there's no sign of it in our City or county governments where prosperity seem to be thriving. Since many taxpayers have defaulted in paying taxes, the City has just increased its bonded indebtedness, all of which would make it seem everything is hunky-dory again in the way of postponing a crisis before the next election.

TED CONRAD TO BE HONORED BY HCNBA

On May 19th, the Heights Coalition of Neighborhood and Block Associations will honor Ted Conrad, on the occasion of his 82nd birthday, for his many achievements for Jersey City and the Heights.

The party will take place at the Community Center in Pershing Field, on Sunday, May 19th at 7:00 pm. If you wish to attend please contact Maria at 659-2245 and have your name placed on the guest list before May 15th.

DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY GOING TO ELLIS ISLAND

Back in 1976 when Ellis Island was opened to the public during the summer months, I started to take my company from Germany for visits there. It was the most moving experience. Inspite of the neglect of the building, it was like walking into the world of the immigrant of the past.

The old offices for changing money and buying railroad tickets were still there. So was the dining hall with some of the old tables and tableware as well as the old kitchen equipment. The staircase, that was used to sort out the fit from the sick was also intact. Once at the top you entered the great hall with it's rows of benches, which also were still there.

The rangers then took us to the infirmary and the interrogation room where the final decision was made as to whether the immigrant would be able to stay in America.

The rangers took the visitors through all the proceedings the immigrants had to go to, so that by the end of the visit you came away with very strong emotional feelings about what it must have felt like for those people having to go through that process.

So when in 1984 the island was closed for restoration I could not wait for it to re-open and to go back to see it, with all the old features lovingly restored and put back in place.

This week the grandchildren were visiting and decided to take them over to Ellis Island after its $160,000,000 restoration.

You cannot imagine my horror when we walked into a completely bare, modern hall, and from there into rooms after rooms of blown up photographs, with somebody talking on tape. About what? Who knows? The acoustics were so bad that you could not understand one word.

The great hall has been turned into a vast modern beige nothing with cutsy lamps and just a couple of old benches.

My grandson was bored stiff and the older ones disappointed, because I had told them about my visits to the island in the seventies.

I myself was both bored and outraged at the same time. The money cam from donations by people all over the country and it was used to destroy what could have been the most memorable museum and memorial to all those who passed through those halls. The people who did this should be ashamed of themselves or better yet - hanged!

Ruth Conrad

VOLUNTEER WORK AVAILABLE

The Harbor View Health Care Center is looking for volunteers to work with the residents or to help in the office. Hours - day or night, seven days a week - can be scheduled at your convenience. You may give an hour a week, an hour a day, or any amount of time that you can spare to do volunteer work. For further information, call Diane DeBerjeois at 963-1800 between 9 am and 5 pm.

ATTENTION DRIVERS

The law in New Jersey regarding the use of windshield wipers has recently been changed. If driving conditions require the use of windshield wipers, you must also turn on your lights. Many motorists are unaware of this new rule.For further information, you may call the Department of Motor Vehicles at 1-800-368-2222.

CONGRATULATIONS....

TO: VALERIE REA, former RNA treasurer and GARY PARZYCH on their recent marriage. They exchanged vows on April 7th,

TO: MADELINE and JACK REA, proud parents of the bride, who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary also on April 7th,

TO: MADELINE REA, celebrating her birthday on May 11th,

TO: THEODORE CONRAD, celebrating his 82nd birthday on May 19th, and

TO: MARIA TUZZO, our illustrious RNA secretary, who will be half a century young on May 23rd.

Good health and happiness to them all!
(and to anyone else who celebrates a special day in May)

MAY...

THE MONTH OF MAY IS DEDICATED TO ALL MOTHERS,
INCLUDING OUR DEAR BLESSED MOTHER,
LILY OF THE VALLEY BLOOMING,
MOTHER'S DAY, MY BIRTHDAY MAY 11TH, AND
OF COURSE, MEMORIAL DAY!

Madeline Tuzzo Rea

CHRIST HOSPITAL BREAST CANCER DETECTION PROGRAM

Did you know that breast cancer will strike one in every nine women during her lifetime? In recognition of this, Christ Hospital will offer a brast cancer detection awareness program for women on Saturday, May 11th from 10 am to 1 pm. The program will provide instruction in breast self examination, a physical examination for women age 25 and over, and a mammogram, if indicated for women over age 35 who have never had one before. There is a $10 registration fee, and pre-registration is required. For more information, call the Center for Health Awareness at 795-8030.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

Last month, RNA announced a new policy of requesting a membership fee of $3.00 for the annual subscription to our newsletter. Unfortunately, the cost of this newsletter has steadily increased because of the ever changing mailing rates. If we do not receive the subscription fee by June, we will have to remove the person's name from the mailing list. RNA regrets having to institute this policy but the economics dictate that in order to continue to publish this paper, it is necessary. Make your check payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail it to 232 Ogden Avenue, J.C., N.J. 07307. Thank you for your continued support.

RNA has been publishing this newsletter for over the last five years. It is dedicated to the ideal of disseminating information to the local community to acquaint the people with the issues, problems and activities that effect their lives. The mailing list has steadily increased till its present number of approximately 450 people. This newsletter circulates throughout the local RNA neighborhood, the Heights, Jersey City, Hudson County and even as far as the Governor's mansion in Trenton. RNA believes it is just as important to let people outside, as well as inside, the area know what is going on in this community. This newsletter has grown from one page to sometimes as many as ten pages including a coloring page and a page of local sponsors.

GRAFFITI IS A CRIME!

THE MAYOR'S ANTI-GRAFFITI TASKFORCE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT GRAFFITI IS A CRIME!

If you are a juvenile (under 18): your parents are subject to fines up to $1,000.00 for each offense. You can be sentenced up to 60 hours of community service. Your parents can be sued for the cost of the damage.

If you are 18 or older, you are : subject to fines up to $1,000.00 for each offense, subject to imprisonment (jail) for 90 days for each offense, you can be sentenced up to 60 hours of community service, subject to a civil law suit for the cost of the damages, and subject to a $125.00 removal cost.

If any citizen has information about a graffiti problem in their neighborhood, please call the GRAFFITI HOTLINE: 547-4403 (9 am to 5 pm). Your identity and all information will be kept strictly confidential.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON FRIDAY, May 10th, AT 7:30 P.M.

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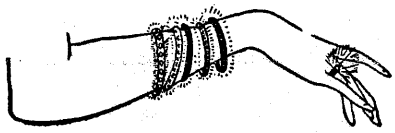

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ARTICULOS PARA FIESTAS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE MAIL (2) OF YOUR BUSINESS CARDS AND A CHECK [EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS] TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307.

Dear Mom,

Love,

SEVENTH ANNUAL RNA FLEA MARKET IS
SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

CR-18
BRUNETTI, V.
232 OGDEN AVE.
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Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Hank Cesari

ENVIRONMENT
Ann Hart

FLEA MARKET
Margaret McCorry

RNA'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

OBJECTIVE: AS PART OF RNA'S COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP PROJECT, WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR FREE DUMPSTERS TO BE PLACED THROUGHOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO USE FOR DISCARDING GARBAGE AND JUNK FROM THEIR HOME, THEIR PROPERTY OR THEIR BLOCK.

THE DATES: FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

LOCATIONS OF DUMPSTERS:

A) CUNEO PLACE
B) FERRY STREET
C) FRANKLIN STREET
D) GRIFFITH STREET

(ALL DUMPSTERS WILL BE LOCATED ON THESE STREETS BETWEEN PALISADE AND OGDEN AVENUES.)

THANKS TO JCIA AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES!